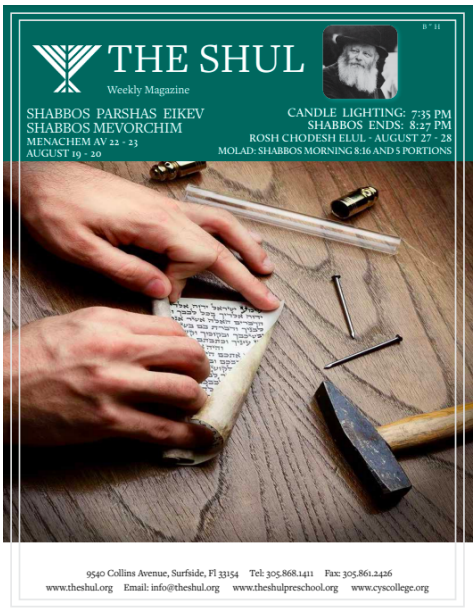
MyZuzah Moments - August 25, 2022

MyZuzah was in the news again this week, with the Washington Jewish Week and Baltimore Jewish Times running profiles of Alex Shapero, our Program Director. We had hoped the articles would cover more about our domestic violence support programs, but any news is good news! The publicity has already spurred some new donations in support of our work, and attention for our partners.

Our team is working hard to balance inventory across our partners, as they all gear up for Elul/fall/holiday programming. While we wait for new mezuzahs and updated cases from Israel, we have been able to take excess mezuzahs from some partners and send them to others, and we've also learned that hundreds of idle mezuzahs have been safely placed by our partners! Any day that we receive a note from a partner saying "*We used all 50 mezuzahs and need more– here are the pictures!*" is a good day in our office :-)

By the end of the month, we will have submitted two new grant applications for significant support in new, exciting areas– we hope to share good news about those endeavors soon!

Partner Updates:



The Shul of Bal Harbour in **Surfside, Fl** is offering mezuzot to their congregation as part of a pre-high holidays push. They launched the project in their weekly magazine, through Rabbi Shalom Lipskar's d'var torah, and aim to put up 120 new mezuzahs in their community.



THOUGHTS ON THE PARSHA

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One of the greatest concerns of our millennia is our sense and need for security. "Security, protection," touches every aspect of our life experience, from our personal homes, loved ones, travel, attending events, going to prayers etc. etc. etc.

We expend enormous amounts of our budget on security, are very conscious when it is lacking and always seeking to make it more effective.

It has become totally integrated into our daily behavior to feel comfortable and safe with adequate security.

This reality brings me to an important mitzvah addressed in this week's Torah portion of "affixing a Mezuzah properly on the doorways of our homes, living quarters and work environments".

The Torah states and explicitly codified in the Code of Jewish law that an intrinsic aspect of the Mitzvah of Mezuzah is being a failsafe security system protecting the Jewish home and spaces. In fact, the three letters on the exposed side of the mezuzah reads in Hebrew, "Shomair Daloot Yisrael"- the Guardian Protecting the Jewish Home"

I am taking the liberty of paraphrasing a quote from a talk that the Rebbe gave in 1967:

"The great merit that we have in regard to the campaign to make sure that every Jewish home has a Mezuzah. Particularly during these difficult times, "the Jewish people are like a singular lamb amongst 70 wolves, helped and assisted by the trusted Shepard who consistently saved her and protected her" -

and especially as we have seen practically the abnormal occurrences that continue to transpire around us, invading our homes, businesses, and schools when in all those cases there was no mezuzah on the door. We should therefore make every extra effort that every Jewish home should have a mezuzah on all the doors that are obligated to have one and they should be affixed in a proper manner.

This is an obligation both for men and for women who also have a similar obligatory mitzvah with the same specific details as the man and as the Talmud says, "do men have to be more desirous of living than women". Moreso, as women are the foundation of the Jewish home, it is incumbent upon her specifically to make certain that all matters of the home, including the security of the home through the Mezuzah that should be affixed properly.

The power of the Mezuzah as a security blanket extends to all of that which is within the house, humans and objects.

This security, the Zohar states, "Almighty G-d guards your going out and returning in all of your

trips and travels, from now until eternity", not only in the house but when you leave your home the Mezuzah of your house extends its guardianship to the inhabitants of that house. And because all Jews are interwoven with each other and responsible for each other, and we are all a singular organic body, it is understood that every Jewish door affects all Jewish doors and so G-d will continue to guard our coming and are going.

The most effective, efficient and affordable security system ever conceived or created! Is yours Kosher and proper?

In view of this, we are making an offer to supply a kosher Mezuzah to anyone that does not have one yet. Please call The Shul office for further information.

Have a great Shabbos and wonderful week.

Rabbi Sholom D. Lipskar

ISEJ in **Buenos Aires, Argentina**, shared a lovely selection of photos documenting their work with students, young professionals, and families throughout Argentina:



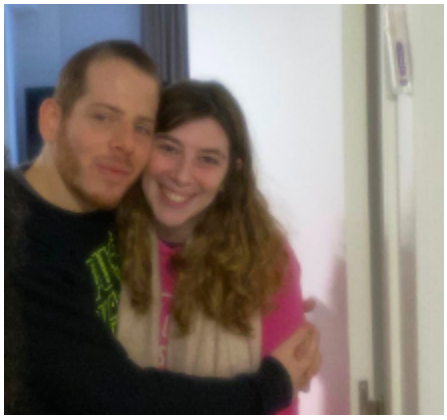












Individual recipient photos:

Miriam Fischer, in **Brunswick, MD**, requested a mezuzah from us a year ago, but never put it up– then she got married, and her husband's home was all stocked. She turned around and presented her MyZuzah mezuzah to another couple as a wedding present.



Alexandra Lukens, of **Ridgewood, NY**, made a donation to fund a mezuzah for someone else after sending in her own picture:



It feels special to have a reminder of my Judaism every time I leave the house! The facilitator was lovely and very knowledgeable!
Felix Moore, in **London, England**